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[(D)] has at least two parts which are operationally connected with one another, of which one part is supported on a support element [(21)] and the other part is connected to the moveable mold carrier [(11)]. One of the two parts of the drive [(D)] also extends in linear fashion in the closing direction [(s-s)] during the closing movement as a linear movement means for the moveable mold carrier [(11)]. [(Fig. 1).]

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

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Claim 1. (Amended) Mold-closing unit for an injection molding machine for processing plastics materials and other plasticizable masses, having

[-] a stationary mold carrier [(10)],

[-] a moveable mold carrier [(11)] which has between itself and the stationary mold carrier [(10)] a mold tenting space [(R)] to accommodate injection molds [(M)] of variable height, measured in a closing direction [(s-s)],

[-] a drive [(D)] to move the moveable mold carrier [(11)] in the closing direction [(s-s)] towards the stationary mold carrier [(10)] and away from the stationary mold carrier, which drive has at least two parts operationally connected to one another, of which one part is supported on a support element [(21)], and the other part is connected to the moveable mold carrier [(11)],

[-] guide elements [(12)] which guide the moveable mold carrier [(11)] during its movement in the closing direction [(s-s)], having at least one portion [(12a, 26a)]

[-] a device for variably fixing the spacing [(a)] between the stationary mold carrier [(10)] and the moveable mold carrier [(11)] measured with the injection mold [(M)] closed and assuming a movement path of the moveable mold carrier unaltered in relation to a state before alteration of the spacing [(a)], which device enters operational connection with the portion [(12a, 26a)] of the guide elements [(12)] to fix the spacing [(a)] set,

[-] a fixing device [(14)] allocated to the moveable mold carrier [(11)] which, on actuation, fixes the moveable mold carrier [(11)] in its respective position,

[-] wherein drive [(D)], when the fixing device [(14)] is actuated and the device

for variably fixing the spacing [(a)] is out of operational connection, itself alters the spacing [(a)] by displacing the device for variably fixing the spacing [(a)] along ^{said} portion of said ^{the elements} [(12a, 26a)],

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[characterized in that] wherein one of the two parts of the drive [(D)] extends as a linear movement means for the moveable mold carrier [(11)] in a linear manner in the closing direction even during the closing movement.

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Claim 2. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the drive [(D)] adjustably alters its own opening stroke when the spacing [(a)] is altered.

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Claim 3. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the drive [(D)] is a hydraulic drive and that the parts of the drive [(D)] are the cylinder [(25)] and piston rod [(26)] of a hydraulic piston-cylinder unit.

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Claim 4. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the drive [(D)] is an electromechanical drive and that the parts of the drive [(D)] include a rotational element and a linear movement means in operational connection therewith.

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Claim 5. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1,
[characterized in that,] wherein in connection with the drive [(D)], the spacing [(a)] is variable by alternate actuation of the device for variably fixing the spacing [(a)] and of the fixing device [(14)].

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Claim 6. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1, **[characterized in that]** wherein ^{before} the unit for variably fixing the spacing [(a)] is a clamping device [(13)] and that ^{said} this device for fixing the set spacing [(a)] enters positive operational connection with ^{said} portion [(12a, 26a)] of the guide elements [(12)].

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Claim 7. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, **[characterized in that]** wherein the clamping device [(13)] has a first collet chuck [(37)] which is disposed coaxially to the guide element [(12)] in the region of ^{said} portion [(12a)] and can be transferred with ^{said} portion [(12a)] into positive operational connection free from play.

Claim 8. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 7, **[characterized in that]** wherein the first collet chuck [(38)] has a conical region [(16a)] which, in order to release the tension, comes hydraulically into operational connection with a cone ring [(31)] connected to an annular piston [(17)] and under the force of resilient means [(22)], the annular piston [(17)] being axially moveable to a limited extent along the guide element [(12)].

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Claim 9. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, **[characterized in that]** wherein the portion [(12a)] of the guide elements [(12)] has a thread [(12b)] to form a positive operational connection with a threaded bush [(16)] of the clamping device [(13)].

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Claim 10. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 6, **[characterized in that]** wherein the clamping device [(13)], to form a positive operational connection with ^{said} portion [(12a, 26a)] has at least one nut which is operationally connected to a thread [(12b)] of said portion.

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Claim 11. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the actuated fixing device [(14)] fixes the moveable
mold carrier [(11)] in a non-positive manner to the guide elements [(12)].

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Claim 12. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 11,
[characterized in that] wherein the fixing device [(14)] has a second collet chuck [(19)]
which is disposed coaxially to a guide element [(12)] and is fixed on the moveable mold
carrier [(11)].
one of said

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Claim 13. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 12,
[characterized in that] wherein the second collet chuck [(19)] has a conical region
[(19a)] and in that a second hydraulically actuated annular piston [(18)] with a conical
portion [(18a)] effects the clamping with the conical region [(19a)] when hydraulic
pressure is applied, the additional annular piston [(18)] being preferably able to be reset
via an additional resilient element [(20)].

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Claim 14. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 3,
[characterized in that] wherein the guide element is a piston rod [(26)] of the drive,
which rod comes into operational connection with the clamping device [(13)] via a
portion [(26a)].
guide = piston rod

Claim 15. (Amended) Mold-closing unit according to claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein that there is hinged to the stationary mold carrier [(10)]
a force transmission element [(40)], at the opposite end [(42)] of which, associated with
the moveable mold carrier [(11)], is disposed the clamping device [(13)] which co-
operates with portion [(26a)].